

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2871

S E C R E T LUSAKA 0443

NODIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH ZA UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH-RHODESIAN CONTACTS ABOUT SETTLEMENT

REF: STATE 42852

1. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER (MILES) CONFIRMED SUBSTANCE REFTEL RE SMITH APPROACH TO HMG TO TAKE INTEREST IN SETTLEMENT AND SAID FORMAL REPLY WOULD BE FORTHCOMING IN BRITISH PARLIAMENT TOMORROW, TUESDAY FEB 24, WHEN SPOKESMAN (PRESUMABLY BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN) WILL STATE HMG'S INTENTION TO SEND LORD GREENHILL TO RHODESIA ON FOLLOWING DAY, FEB 25.

2. MILES SAID LORD GREENHILL IS RETIRED FOREIGN UNDERSECRETARY, KNOWS SMITH AND GETS ON WITH HIM WELL, ALTHOUGH IS ESSENTIALLY CONSERVATIVE IN HIS OUTLOOK, HAVING RISEN FROM THE RANKS TO THE TOP CIVIL SERVICE POSITION IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

3. MILES REQUESTED THAT DEPT MAKE NO REFERENCE TO GREENHILL MISSION IN CONTACTS WITH BRITISH EMBASSY WASHINGTON UNTIL PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT MADE TOMORROW.

4. MILES IS PERSONALLY SKEPTICAL THAT ANYTHING WILL COME OF THIS MISSION BECAUSE HE CONVINCED SMITH HAS ALREADY PROVED HIMSELF AS UNTRUSTWORTHY AND ARCH PROCRASTINATOR. I REFERRED TO FEB 20 STATEMENT OF DEPT SPOKESMAN (TRATTNER)

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IN WHICH US URGES WHITE REGIME IN RHODESIA TO REACH A

NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WITH BLACK MAJORITY TO AVERT THREAT
OF GUERRILLA WARFARE IN WAKE OF ANGOLAN SUCCESSES. MILES
SAID HE THOUGHT THIS WAS HELPFUL.
WILKOWSKI

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